(d) 7 Category-I officers and 47 category-II & III officers/officials of F.C.I. have been found responsible for accrual of damaged foodgrains.

Ban on use of tobacco

*274.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smokers emit cancerous smoke and pollute air;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken to eliminate smoking; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban use of tobacco in all forms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There are more than 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke. These include a number of toxic substance and carcinogens or cancer causing agents *viz 1,3-butadiene, Chromium VI, 2-Naphthylamine Ethyl benzene, 4-Aminobiphenyl Formaldehyde, 4-nitrobiphenyl Hydrazine, Acetaldehyde Methyl chloride, Acrolem N-Nitrosonornicotine, Aniline Nickel, Arsenic (inorganic) Nicotine, Benzene NNK, Benz[a]anthracene Phenol, Benzo[a]pyrene Styrene, Cadmium Toluene.*

The tobacco smoke exhaled by smokers *i.e.* second hand smoke is equally harmful and are known to cause among others:-

1. lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children), sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma and low birth weight.

2. Disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.

The tobacco smoke contains more than 4000 toxic constituents. These are poisonous gases *e.g.* hydrogen cyanide, Ammonia, Tolune, Butane and Carbon Monoxide, toxic metals *e.g.* Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium and Lead and Cancer causing chemicals such as Vinyl Chloride Benzene, Formaldehyde and Polonium.

Active smoking (*i.e.* the smoke to which the smoker is exposed) leads to cancers of various organs such a lungs, larynx, liver, stomach, pancreas, kidney, cervix (women), urethra and bladder, leukemia (blood cancer) and other disease such as stroke, cataract, diminished health, coronary heart disease and chronic lung disease.

There is scientific evidence to prove that the persons who are exposed to second hand smoke (SHS) or Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) get disease and adverse health effects such as lung cancer and heart disease in adults and SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) exacerbation of asthma, acute and chronic lung disease and middle ear disease in children.

The Government of India has enacted a comprehensive Tobacco Control Act called "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" in May, 2003. The main objective of the act is to discourage the consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The specific provisions contained in the Act include:

1. Ban on smoking in public places. (Section-4)

2. Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. (Section-5)

3. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 years. (Section-6a)

4. Ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (Section-6b)

5. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section-7)

The section-4 of the said Act prohibits smoking in public places, thereby protecting the non-smokers from second hand smoke/environmental tobacco smoke. The Ministry of Health has issued guidelines to the State Governments/ Departments to implement the smoke-free rules.

Further, the pilot phase of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has also been launched in 2007-08 in 18 districts of 9 States. The NTCP envisages building capacity of the State Governments in the effective enforcement of Anti Tobacco Laws and bringing about greater awareness about the ill effects of tobacco.

It is expected that the initiatives of the Government, in bringing about greater awareness of the harm effects of tobacco & strict enforcement of the anti-tobacco laws will protect the non-smokers & also progressively reduce the demand of tobacco products in India.

Shortage of Quality Seeds

*275.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe shortage of seeds, particularly quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the availability of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The over all availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for 2008-09 is 250.34 lakh quintals against the requirement of 207.28 lakh quintals as reported by the State/UT Governments.

(c) Systematic production of breeder, foundation and certified/quality seed is undertaken in every season by the seed producing agencies. Assistance is provided for seeds under different schemes being implemented by the Government of India. These schemes include (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) (ii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) (iii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta (iv) Technology Mission on Cotton (v) Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed (vi) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and (vii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Requirement of iron-ore by steel companies

*276.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how much iron-ore is required by all steel companies in Jharkhand for expansion/ Greenfield projects;